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 FROM THE SITUATION ROOM

State Dept. review
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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY

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ON-FILE NSC
 RELEASE
 INSTRUCTIONS
 APPLY

TOHAK 310

MAY 24, 1974

TO: JERRY BREMER/PETER RODMAN
 FOR: SECRETARY KISSINGER
 FROM: BRENT SCOWCROFT

1. FORTIFIED WITH YOUR VERY HELPFUL COMMENTS ABOUT A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP (HAKTO 140-142) I HAD A GOOD TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT AND I THINK LEFT HIM RELAXED ABOUT THE WHOLE THING. HE ACCEPTS THE 10TH AS THE EARLIEST FEASIBLE STARTING DATE, AND I OUTLINED FOR HIM, AS EXAMPLES, TWO ALTERNATIVE ITINERARIES. THE FIRST WOULD COVER JUST THE FIVE "MUST" COUNTRIES AND I TOLD HIM WE COULD DO THAT AND HAVE HIM HOME ON THE 17TH. ADDING THE NORTH AFRICAN STOPS, WE COULD STILL GET HIM HOME THE 19TH. I TOLD HIM THIS WAS JUST A FIRST, VERY ROUGH CUT BUT IT WOULD GIVE HIM AN IDEA THAT IT WAS MANAGEABLE. HE SAID THAT IN GENERAL HE WOULD PREFER ONLY ONE NIGHT PER STOP, TO AVOID ALL THE RECIPROCAL BANQUET FORMALITIES. I REPLIED THAT HE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER TWO NIGHTS IN CAIRO AND PERHAPS TWO IN ISRAEL, WHICH IS THE BASIS I HAD USED IN MY CALCULATIONS. I MENTIONED AGAIN SLIDING THE SOVIET TRIP THREE DAYS TO INCREASE THE INTERVAL BETWEEN THE TWO TRIPS AND HE ASKED WHETHER THE RUSSIANS WOULD BE UPSET AT OUR GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST JUST BEFORE THE SUMMIT. I RESPONDED THAT I DID NOT BELIEVE SO BUT THAT WAS AN ISSUE THE TWO OF YOU SHOULD DISCUSS. HE SEEMED QUITE RELIEVED AT THIS CONVERSATION, AND EVEN HAD A MUCH MORE OBJECTIVE OUTLOOK ON MAKING THE TRIP AT ALL. I NOW THINK PART OF HIS PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN A FEELING OF UNCERTAINTY, WHICH WAS DISPELLED BY GIVING HIM A FEW DATES AND OTHER ILLUSTRATIVE DETAILS. I HAVE NOT APPROACHED DOBRYNIN ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SLIPPING THE SOVIET TRIP UNTIL THE 27TH AND SEE NO REASON TO DO SO PRIOR TO YOUR RETURN.

2. THE PRESIDENT CALLED ME IN AGAIN LATER ON AND

***** HSR COMMENT *****

SECFILE

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